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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Extension Service Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

PASTURES

A booth exhibit showing the value of pasture for livestock and how to produce good pasture.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - - 13 ft. front, 8 ft. Wall space - - - - - None. (deep. Shipping weight - - - - 715 lbs.

Electrical Requirements - None.

PASTURES

How It Looks

The leading feature of this booth exhibit is a display of a miniature reproduction of a fenced hay field containing a load of hay while outside the field is a pile of corn and several sacks of tankage which illustrate the saving made by the use of pasture as determined by an experiment. This display is at the bottom of the center section.

The portion of the center section containing the text is a cutout which tends to give greater depth to the two scenes above it. These scenes of sheep and cattle are enlarged colored photographs which have been blended into one large scene.

On the right section are two enlarged photographs of hogs used in a feeding experiment. One picture shows the hogs in the lot and the other hogs on pasture. The amount of feed required to make 100 pounds of gain is given in the text just below each picture. This section is eight feet long.

The small four-foot section on the left is almost entirely occupied by text on the subject of "Good Bluegrass Pasture for Cattle." The booth is 13 feet across the front, 7 feet high and 8 feet deep.

What It Tells

This exhibit illustrates the value of pasture as a feed for livestock, and some of the steps necessary to produce good pastures.

A summary of feeding tests shows the value of clover or alfalfa pasture in pork production. In these tests growing pigs were fed corn and tankage both on clover or alfalfa pasture, and in dry lots. Nineteen pigs, on the average, were carried from a weight of 52 pounds to the end of the pasture season. The pigs fed corn and tankage on clover or alfalfa pasture made a daily gain of 1.31 pounds, and required only 370 pounds of corn and 24 pounds of tankage for 100 pounds gain. The pigs in dry lot, although receiving the well-balanced

ration of corn and tankage, gained only 1.13 pounds daily and required 410 pounds of corn and 40 pounds of tankage for 100 pounds gain.

On an average an acre of clover or alfalfa pasture saved 1,149 pounds of corn and 468 pounds of tankage, compared with the dry-lot feeding. In addition, 2,326 pounds of hay were cut from each acre of pasture in those tests in which the weights of hay were reported. Further advantages in favor of feeding the pigs on pasture are the more rapid gains of the pigs, and fertility added to the soil through the growth of legume hay.

Bluegrass is the most important of the cultivated pasture grasses in the United States. The right section of the exhibit shows the important points which must be observed in producing good blue-grass pastures. They are listed as follows:

- 1. Close grazing to keep grass of good quality and prevent weed growth.
- 2. Occasional mowing if necessary to keep down weeds.
- 3. Top dressing with manure or phosphate to increase the growth of grasses.
- 4. Before grazing in the spring, let grass get two inches high.

Good temporary or rotation pastures can be made of: hay mixtures, sweet clover, alfalfa, soy beans, red clover, small grains and grain stubble.

Where to Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Farmers' Bulletin 1073 - Growing Beef on the Farm

Farmers' Bulletin 1125 - Forage for the Cotton Belt

Farmers' Bulletin 1379 - Beef Production in the Cotton Belt

Farmers' Bulletin 1395 - Beef-Cattle Production in Range Area

Farmers' Bulletin 1428 - Saving Livestock from Starvation on Southwest Ranges

U.S.D.A. Bulletin 628 - Wintering and Fattening Beef Cattle in North Carolina

U.S.D.A. Bulletin 827 - Cut-Over Pine Lands of the South for Beef-Cattle Production

Yearbook Separate 874 - Our Beef Supply Yearbook Separate 895 - Our Forage Resources

The following publication may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. for five cents per copy.

U.S.D.A. Bulletin - 1024 - Feed/Experiments with Grade Beef Cows Raising Calves.